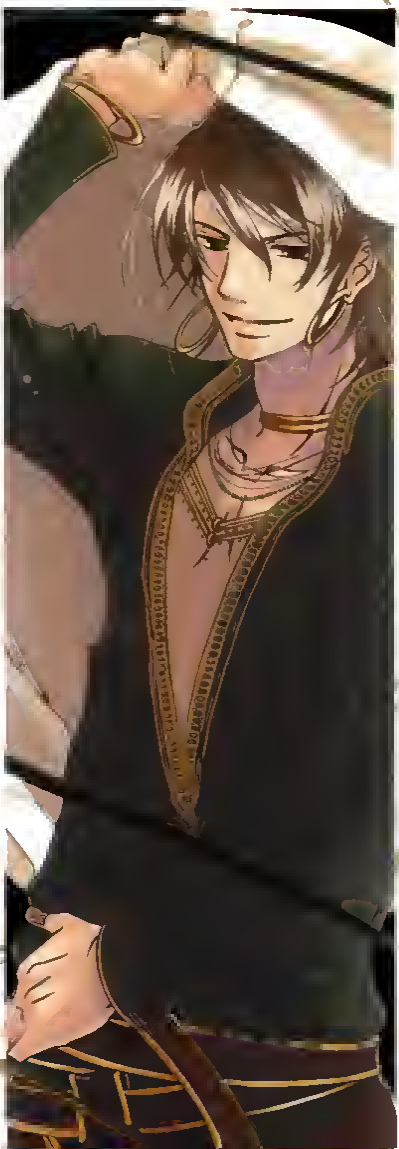
MISSY COMICS

1

12時の権力者



さぎり和紗

WasaSagiri Presents

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER (1)

さぎり和紗
WasaSagiri Presents

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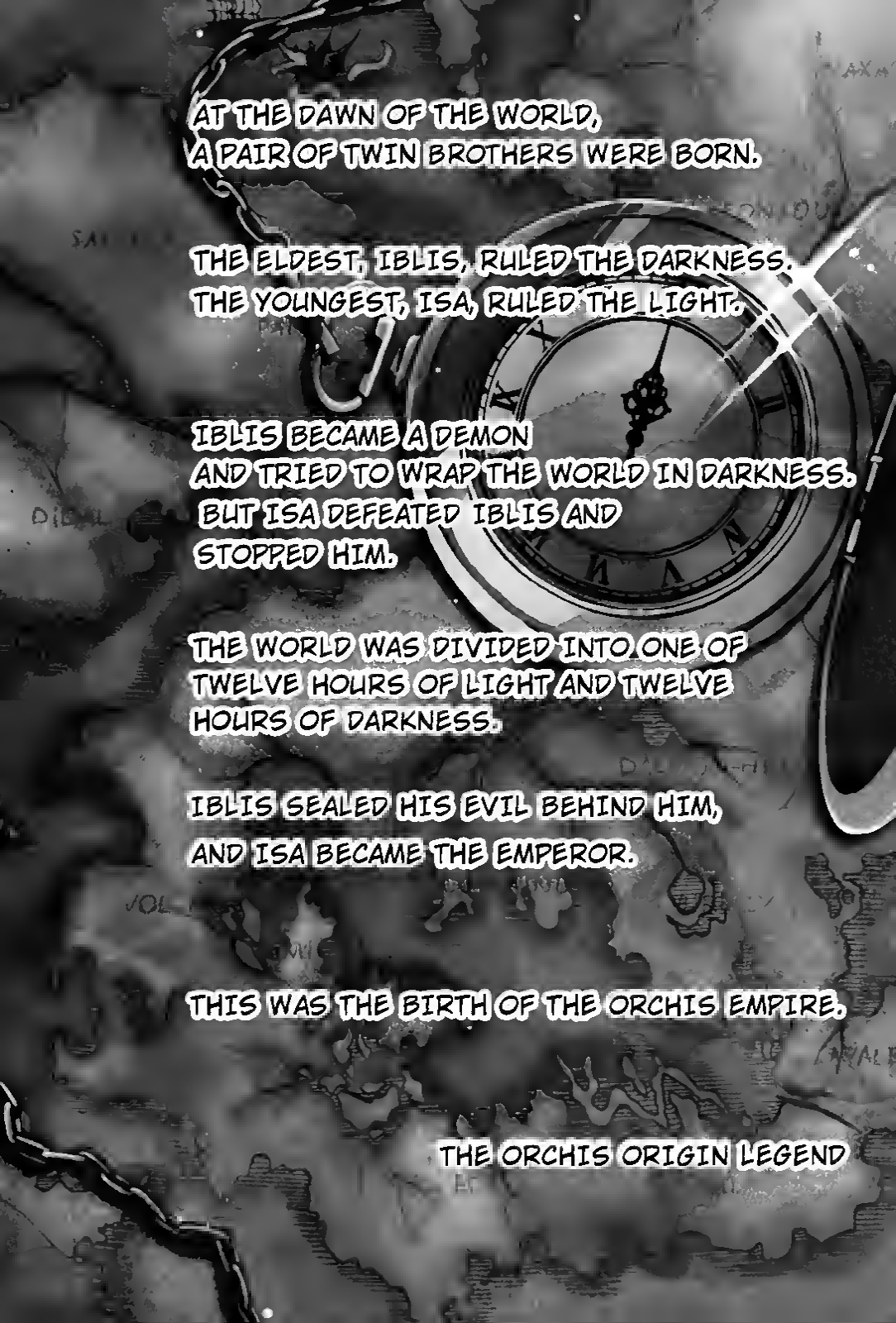

AT THE DAWN OF THE WORLD,
A PAIR OF TWIN BROTHERS WERE BORN.
THE ELDEST, IBLIS, RULED THE DARKNESS.
THE YOUNGEST, ISA, RULED THE LIGHT.
IBLIS BECAME A DEMON
AND TRIED TO WRAP THE WORLD IN DARKNESS.
BUT ISA DEFEATED IBLIS AND
STOPPED HIM.
THE WORLD WAS DIVIDED INTO ONE OF
TWELVE HOURS OF LIGHT AND TWELVE
HOURS OF DARKNESS.
IBLIS SEALED HIS EVIL BEHIND HIM,
AND ISA BECAME THE EMPEROR.
THIS WAS THE BIRTH OF THE ORCHIS EMPIRE.
THE ORCHIS ORIGIN LEGEND

CHAPTER 1:
PRINCE TWELVE

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

ORCHIS EMPIRE, PORT CITY SALIM
WHAT A CRUMMY TAVERN.
IT'S WHAT YOU CALL A "CHARMING" TAVERN!
IT'S FILTHY, THERE'S NO SELECTION, AND THE FOOD TASTES AWFUL.

I DIDN'T LOSE IT. SOMEONE STOLE IT.
JEEZ
ANYWAY, IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LOSING THE SWORD, MASTER TWELVE!
HEY, MAPLE! DON'T RUN INDOORS!
EEK!
THEY LET KIDS WAIT ON CUSTOMERS IN THIS PLACE?

THUD
WELL, I THINK YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE ATTITUDE PROBLEM.
I-I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING...
WHO DO YOU THINK'S LETTING YOU DO BUSINESS IN THIS TOWN, OLD MAN?!
CUT IT OUT!
YOU AGAIN?! YOU MAY BE CUSTOMERS, BUT THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT YOUR ELDERS!

CALM DOWN, MY DEAR FUGI.
AND TRY TO KEEP YOUR RUDENESS TO A MINIMUM!
I AM SORRY, MISS KOYUKI. I SHOULD HAVE KEPT A CLOSER EYE ON HIM.
BY WAY OF APOLOGY, WHY DON'T YOU LET ME TAKE YOU OUT FOR DIN...
HUH?!
...YOU AGAIN, MR. CONSUL?
PLEASE, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBAR-RASSED ABOUT!
HEY!
NOT BETWEEN YOU AND I!

SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
THUNK
WHAP
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
MASTER TWELVE!
HEY!
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU AND I...
FORGET ABOUT HIM, KOYUKI.
HEY!
OH!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR! I'LL FETCH YOU A TOWEL IMMEDIATELY!
...HEY.
DRIP

HEY, DON'T IGNORE ME!
YOU, THE GEEZER WITH THE MULLET!
THANKS TO YOU, I'M SOAKING WET.
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE FOR A PEASANT.
GET 'IM!
YOU WATCH HOW YOU SPEAK TO THE CONSUL!
WHA ?!

...MASTER TWELVE!
OH, THINK NOTHING OF IT!
I WAS BEGINNING TO GET A LITTLE BORED ANYWAY.
HEY, WAIT A SECOND!
TAKE THIS!
IMBE-CILE.

CONSUL!
KH!
ボコ
WHAP
UGH.
SMOOCH ♥
I WILL RETURN, HONEY.
YOU'RE USE-LESS!
THE MOOD HAS BEEN COMPLETELY RUINED.
OH, THERE'S NO NEED TO THANK ME.
HMM?

SMACK
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
WHA ?!
THE CONSUL YOU JUST PISSED OFF IS THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN TOWN!
YOU CAN'T DO BUSINESS IN THIS TOWN IF YOU DEFY HIM!
...HUH? HUH?!

WE CAN'T DO BUSINESS LIKE THIS!
AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT OUR TAVERN?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
I'LL PAY FOR THE DAMAGES.
I COULD BUY A MILLION CRUMMY LITTLE DIVES LIKE THIS IF I WANTED!
...CRUMMY ?

HEY, WHAT'S WITH THAT FORCED SIGH?!
SIGH...
WHERE DID I GO WRONG RAISING YOU?
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU RAISING ME AT ALL.
トゥルルル…
BRING-BRING...
チャ
CLACK
YES?
OH, IT'S YOU.

WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOU? FOUND THE SWORD YET?
...I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE, YOU KNOW.
YES, I'M EATING ENOUGH.
NO, NO SIGNS OF IT OVER...
WHAT?! AGAIN?!
HE HUNG UP ON ME...
WHAT DID MASTER ELEVEN SAY?
BEEP... BEEP...
ガシャン
KER-CHUNK
NOW LISTEN HERE! HEY, ELEVEN !!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T HELP IT?!

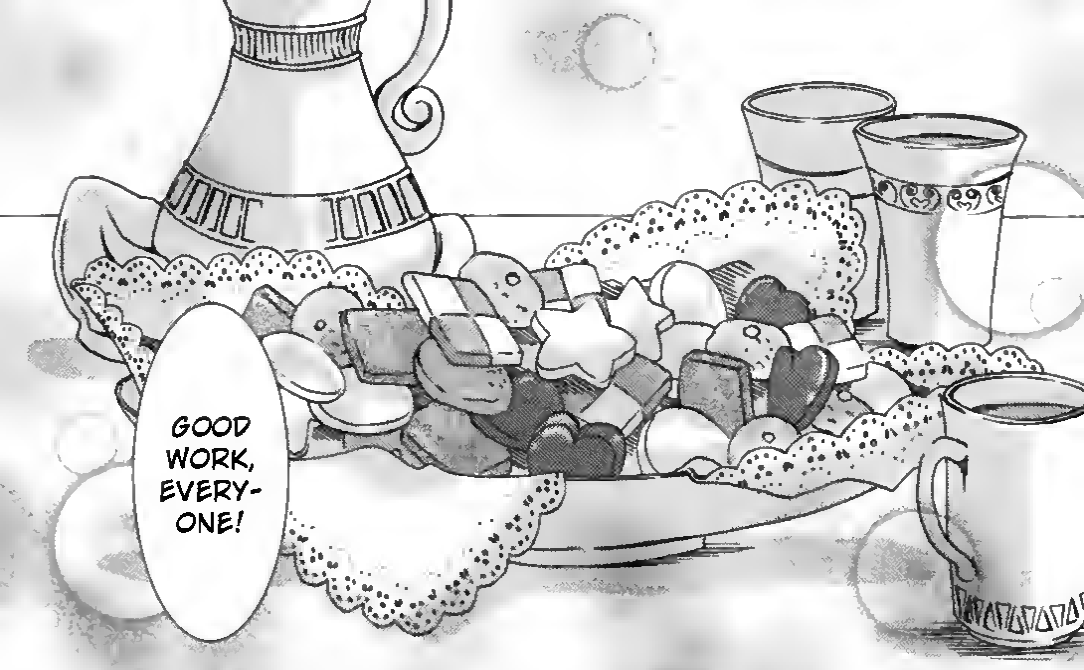
...HE TOLD ME TO STICK AROUND THE TAVERN WE JUST LEFT.
I THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA TOO!
I THINK WE SHOULD FOLLOW MASTER ELEVEN'S INSTRUC-TIONS.
WHAT?!
OKAY! FINE! I'LL GO! I'LL GO!
AND I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO THAT GIRL, MASTER TWELVE.
WHAT A SASSY GIRL...

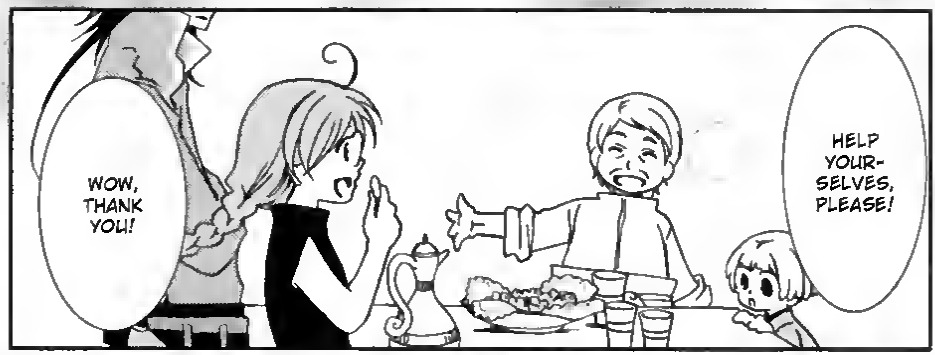
...!
GET OUT!
OH. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
YOU!
IT MUST BE THE CONSUL'S DOING.
WHAT ARE THESE SCRIB-BLES?
WE CAME TO HELP.
HELLO.

THIS...
TEAR

...I'M SORRY. THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, KOYUKI!
I-I'LL HELP!
OVER HERE!
MASTER TWELVE!
WHY DON'T YOU LET THE SERVANTS TAKE CARE OF THAT?

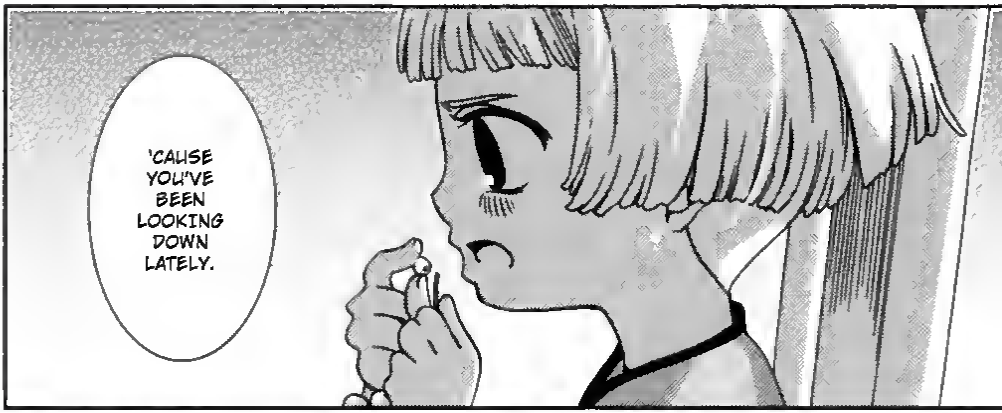
...
GIMME THAT!
DO I HAVE TO DO EVERY-THING MYSELF ?!
THAT'S IT! YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO, MASTER TWELVE!


GOOD WORK, EVERY-ONE!

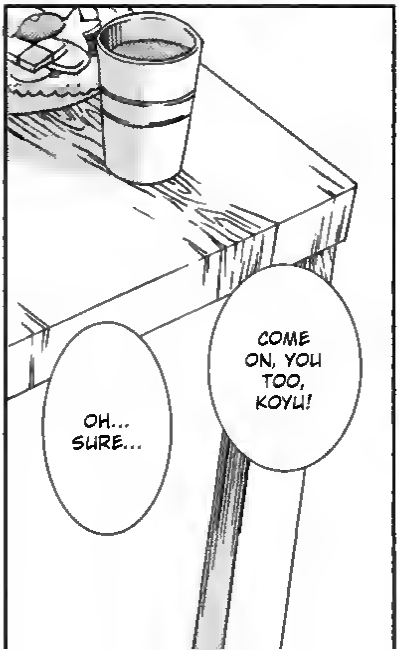

WOW, THANK YOU!
HELP YOUR-SELVES, PLEASE!

I DOUBT THEY'RE GOOD ENOUGH FOR MR RICH BOY HERE...

WHY DO YOU KEEP TAKING JABS AT ME?!
YOU'RE THE ONE TAKING JABS!
YOU'VE SURE GOT A MOUTH ON YOU, WOMAN!
UH...!
UH...!
UH...!
UM...! WHAT ARE YOU MAKING THERE, MAPLE?
A PRESENT FOR KOYU.
FOR ME?


'CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING DOWN LATELY.

MAPLE...


COME ON, YOU TOO, KOYU!
OH... SURE...

OH, A BRACELET? HOW NICE.
TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE IT! WE CAN DO IT OVER THERE!

ISN'T KOYUKI A SWEET GIRL?
SHE ALWAYS ACTS CHEERFUL, BUT THE TRUTH IS...
SHE'S AN ORPHAN.

HER PARENTS WERE KILLED BY THE IMPERIAL ARMY IN THE REVOLT, AND SHE HAD NO OTHER RELATIVES.
HER STORY IS BY NO MEANS A RARE ONE IN THIS COUNTRY...

IF THE EMPEROR IS A DESCENDANT OF GOD...
THEN WHAT WAS HE THINK-ING?
AH!
FLING

AHH!
JEEZ! GIVE ME THAT!
GIGGLE

YOU CALLED, CONSUL?
ABOUT THAT SWORD FROM EARLIER... HAVE YOU FOUND A BUYER YET?
I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFICS, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE QUITE A BEAST OF A SWORD.
IT LOOKS TO BE A VERY VALUABLE PIECE, SO IT WILL DEFINITELY SELL FOR A HIGH PRICE.
THAT WON'T BE A PROB-LEM.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN OUR LUCKY DAY, FIND-ING THAT THING IN OUR CONTRA-BAND.
WE'LL HAVE TO BEEF UP OUR SECURITY.

RIGHT, LAMBDA?
DON'T WORRY, SIR. IT'LL BE SAFE IN THE VAULT...
AND I'VE HIRED A SKILLED BODY-GUARD TO KEEP IT SAFE.
I'M AMAZED BY YOUR POSITIVE THINK-ING.
YES... WHY DOES KOYUKI REJECT ME SO?
DO YOU THINK SHE'S JUST BASH-FUL?
I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR DEAR KOYUKI.

I BELIEVE MISS KOYUKI IS PROBABLY WAITING FOR YOU TO MAKE YOUR NEXT MOVE.
BUT WOMEN LIKE A MAN WHO IS PERSISTENT IN HIS PURSUITS.
PARDON ME, MR. CONSUL.
HUH ?!
...YOU THINK SO TOO?!

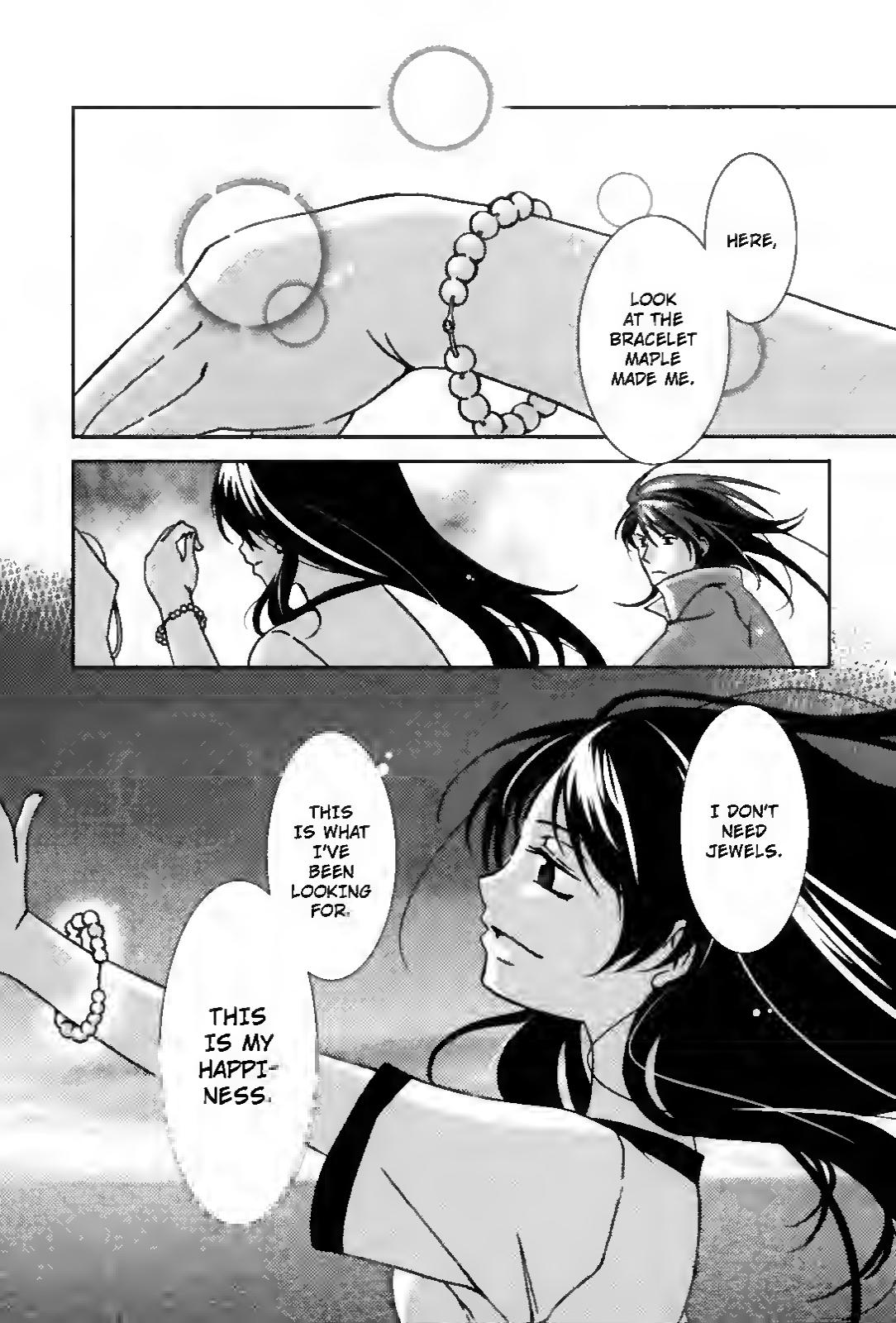
AND SOMETIMES IT MAY EVEN BE NECESSARY TO EMPLOY *STRONGER* MEASURES.
THE OCEAN!

WE'RE NOT HERE ON VACATION.
BUT...
OH, DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS. IT'S JUST WATER.
LOOK, IT'S THE OCEAN MASTER TWELVE!
OH?
I'M GONNA GO LOOK OVER HERE!
YOU'D BETTER BE LOOKING FOR THE SWORD!
YOU KNOW YOU'RE EXCITED TOO!
...

I BOUGHT A FEW THINGS FOR THE TAVERN. ...NOT THAT I EXPECT ANY CUSTOMERS.
Y-YEAH, HOW ABOUT YOU?
HELLO. OUT SHOP-PING?
!
...NOT REALLY. THERE'S NOT MUCH BESIDES DESERT NEAR MY HOUSE.
WHAT, YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THE OCEAN BEFORE?

THE PLACE I WAS BORN WAS LIKE THAT. THERE WEREN'T ANY TREES OR WATER OR ANYTHING.
THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE WERE ALL BARREN...
THAT'S WHAT THIS WHOLE COUNTRY IS LIKE...
BUT NOW, JUST BEING ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH MAPLE AND THE OLD MAN MAKES ME HAPPY.

HAPPY?
BEING CONSTANTLY CHATTED UP AND HARASSED
BY THAT WEIRD GUY...
THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?
...THERE ARE A LOT OF JOYS IN THIS WORLD YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE.
GOOD FOOD, FANCY DRESSES,
JEWELS OF ALL COLORS, GOLD-WORK!
DOES THAT STUFF MAKE YOU HAPPY?

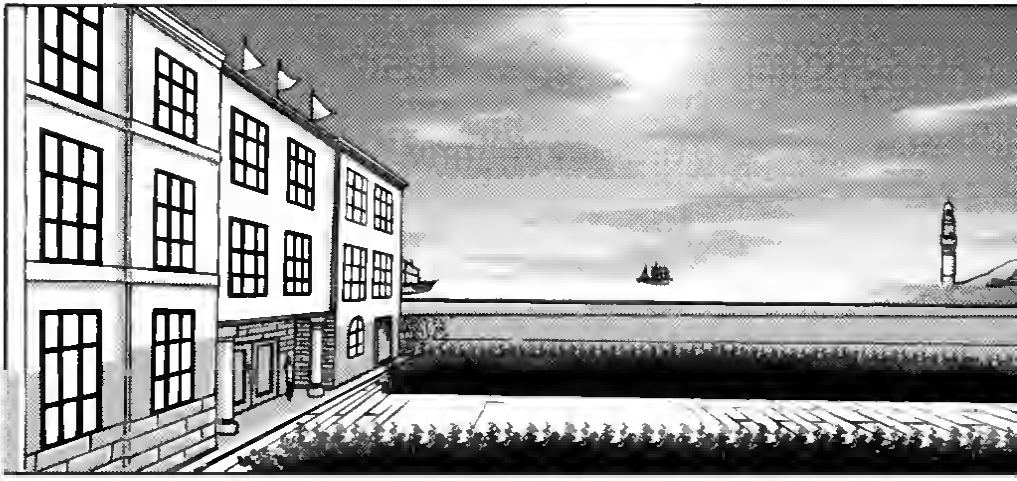

HERE,
LOOK AT THE BRACELET MAPLE MADE ME.
I DON'T NEED JEWELS.
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
THIS IS MY HAPPI-NESS.

MASTER TWELVE.
...ELEVEN WAS RIGHT.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE SHOULD STICK AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE.

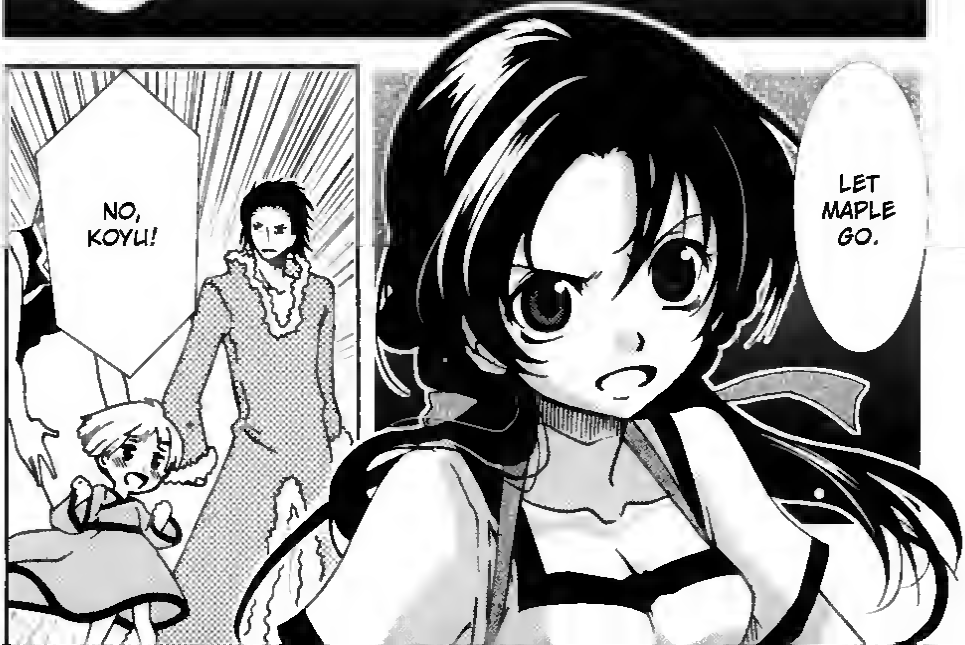
YOU'RE ALWAYS DRINKING TEA, AREN'T YOU?
SLURP
I LIKE IT!
BUT THEY SURE DON'T GET MANY CUSTOMERS HERE, HUH?
SLAM
POPS?
WHAT'S WRONG?

TH-THE CONSUL AND HIS MEN KIDNAPPED MAPLE...
AND THEY WANT KOYUKI TO COME TO THE CONSULATE!
...SIGNED "THE CONSUL."
"IF YOU WANT THE GIRL BACK, YOU'LL HAVE TO MARRY ME, KOYUKI!"

MARRY THE CONSUL?
RIP
KOYUKI'S NOT THAT EASY.



I'M GLAD YOU CAME KOYUKI.
SO YOU'VE FINALLY ACCEPTED MY LOVE, HAVE YOU?


LET MAPLE GO.
NO, KOYU!

WHAP
SHUT UP, BRAT!
YOU CAN'T MARRY THAT GUY!
WHOOPS, I DON'T THINK SO!
MAPLE!
...LET GO OF ME!

SNAP
AH!
CRASH
SOB

WHAT ?!
SHUT UP!
FUGI, KILL THE KID!
WAAAH !!
WAIT!
GIVE UP.
IT'S USELESS, MISS KOYUKI.

HELP ME...
S... SOME-ONE, HELP ME!

LET GO OF THAT HAND, MULLET.
WHA ?!
MAPLE ?!

I JUST LEARNED THIS MYSELF, SO LET ME TEACH YOU.
EVEN LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS...
CAN GIVE YOU THE HOPE TO LIVE.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
HE CAN'T DO ANY-THING UNARMED!
LAMBDA!
YES, YES.
IF IT'S THE SWORD YOU'RE AFTER I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE
YES, THAT'S THE JEWELED SWORD!
...HMM?
?

TWELVE!
GRAB
SO WE FINALLY MEET AGAIN, EH, TAWHID?

...HUH?

I WAS HAVING TOO MUCH FUN TEASING YOU.
SORRY...

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU FOUND IT?

GET 'IM, FUGI!
WHA?!
YOU TRAITOR !!
WOOSH
WHY YOU!

!
FWIP
THUD
I'D SAY THIS COUNTS AS SELF-DEFENSE.
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE DOING THIS? I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MONK?

HUH?
TWINS
?!

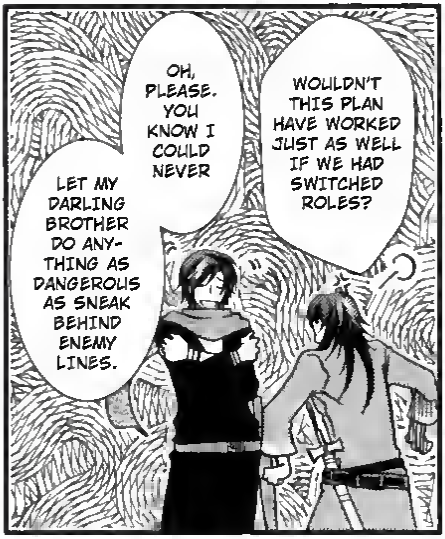
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
WHAM
WH-
WH-
WHA?!
THE ORCHIS IMPERIAL ARMY PATROL BATTALION...
IS NOW ON THE SCENE!

CONSUL XIANGLI WU, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR THE ILLICIT SELLING AND SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS!
HUH?! IMPERIAL ARMY?!
MASTER TWELVE!
FUGI, YOU TRAITOR !!
I WAS ONLY FOLLOW-ING ORDERS !!
THE CONSUL WAS BEHIND EVERY-THING!
YOU'RE LATE, SIDE-PART!

THE NAME'S EIGHT!
TWELVE!
YES...
GOOD WORK, EIGHT.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
AHH!
OH, UM... WELL, MASTER TWELVE LOST THE JEWELED SWORD, SO...
NOW, NOW. EVERY-THING TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT IN THE END...
SAVE IT!
THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE IF YOU DIDN'T ALWAYS SPOIL HIM!
UM... I'M SORRY WE DIDN'T TELL YOU!

THIS IS THE FIRST SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE OF THE ORCHIS EMPIRE, PRINCE TWELVE.
PRINCE ?!
AND THIS IS HIS OLDER BROTHER, PRINCE ELEVEN.
...THAT DOES EXPLAIN WHY HE'S SO SELF-ISH.
HEY!

I'M SORRY, MISS KOYUKI.
IT APPEARS MY CRUDE BROTHER CAUSED YOU SOME TROUBLE.
O-OH NO. IT WAS REALLY NOTHING...
THANK YOU.


WOULDN'T THIS PLAN HAVE WORKED JUST AS WELL IF WE HAD SWITCHED ROLES?
OH, PLEASE. YOU KNOW I COULD NEVER LET MY DARLING BROTHER DO ANY-THING AS DANGEROUS AS SNEAK BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

...HEY, ELEVEN.
YES, TWELVE ?

NOT SO CLOSE!
BUT I'D SAY THINGS TURNED OUT PRETTY WELL, WOULDN'T YOU?
YOU DID MANAGE TO GET ON MISS KOYUKI'S GOOD SIDE.
WHA ?!
MASTER TWELVE IS SPOILED, BAD-MOUTHED, SASSY, SELFISH, AND POMPOUS, BUT HE ISN'T A BAD PERSON.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
KOYU...

HEY!
I HEARD THAT, MICHAELA!
SCRATCH
I CAN'T STAND THAT I OWE YOU ONE NOW
HERE.
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO THE GUY WHO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO PICK THAT UP FOR YOU?!
OUT OF YOUR WAY? YOU REALLY ARE ARROGANT, AREN'T YOU?!
GIGGLE
BUT...

THANK YOU.

MISS KOYUKI, IS IT?
MASTER ELEVEN!
I GET THE FEELING SHE'S GONNA HAVE HIM WHIPPED

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

YAY!
YAY!
THE TOWN'S BEEN PRETTY BUSY LATELY, HUH?
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE BIRTH FESTIVAL.
OH RIGHT... THE ONE FOR THAT SPOILED PRINCE'S BIRTHDAY, WAS IT?
NOT EVEN TRYING TO HIDE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM, EH?

I GUESS IT'S PRINCE ELEVEN'S BIRTHDAY TOO, SINCE THEY'RE TWINS AND ALL...
THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE, BUT...
THEY ONLY CELEBRATE PRINCE TWELVE'S EVERY YEAR.
...YEAH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
...HEY, WAIT A SECOND!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING COMING HERE LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED?!
THIS IS QUITE TASTY ISN'T IT?

CHAPTER 2: THE
BIRTH FESTIVAL

CHATTER
CHATTER
"IMPERIAL ORCHIS,
THE LAND RULED BY GOD."

THEY SAY THIS COUNTRY'S ROYAL FAMILY IS DESCENDED FROM GOD.
GOD?
YOU KNOW HOW IT IS...
ORCHIS'S FIRST EMPERORS WERE TWINS OR SOMETHING, SO NOW TWINS ARE CONSIDERED HOLY.
SO NOW IF TWINS ARE BORN TO THE ROYAL FAMILY,
THE YOUNGER BROTHER IS AUTOMATICALLY NAMED THE NEW EMPEROR.

THE YOUNGEST? THAT'S UNUSUAL.
CHOMP
AH! SIR...
WHAT?! I'VE GOTTA PAY?!
HE'S GOT THE WALLET.

WOW...

WELCOME, KOYU!
I'M SORRY FOR ASKING YOU TO COME OUT OF YOUR WAY LIKE THIS, MISS KOYUKI.
OH, IT'S NO TROUBLE, REALLY!
BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT TO LET A COMMONER LIKE ME ONTO THE PALACE GROUNDS?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. I'M GLAD YOU CAME.
I KNOW TWELVE WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU AS WELL.
...HE WILL?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE? PRINCE ELEVEN ASKED ME TO COME.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
?!
HE IS A HEALTHY YOUNG MAN AFTER ALL.
I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS!
...THAT'S BECAUSE I DIDN'T TELL YOU.
YOU'RE BEING RUDE TO OUR GUEST, MASTER TWELVE!
WHAT?! COMMONERS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO JUST WALTZ IN HERE!

...WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THIS TIME, ELEVEN?

FLUTTER
?

WOW, SHE'S SO CUTE!
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE A DOLL...

HISS!
THIS AGAIN...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER.
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, MASTER TWELVE!
MISS KOYUKI...
GROWL
THAT'S OUR YOUNGEST SISTER. ...SHE'S A LITTLE SHY.
HEY!
YOU COULD AT LEAST SAY HELLO, SILSILAH!

ARE YOU FREE? I KNOW TWELVE WON'T INVITE YOU HIMSELF...
TOMORROW, THERE'S A FESTIVAL FOR TWELVE'S BIRTHDAY...
OH, THE BIRTH FESTIVAL, RIGHT?
GIGGLE
YOU TWO REALLY ARE CLOSE.
?

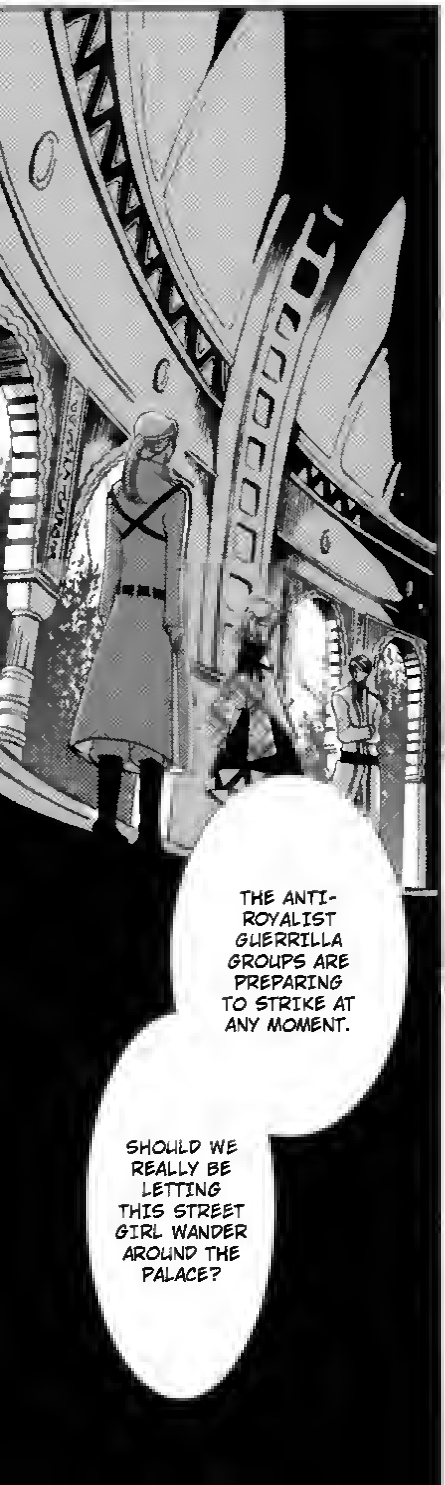
ME, WONDER-FUL? NOT AT ALL.
I WISH I HAD SUCH A WONDERFUL BROTHER WATCHING OUT FOR ME.
THAT ONE'S A LOT MORE RESPONSIBLE THAN I AM
...I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT...

MISS KOYUKI...
?
TWELVE HAS LIVED A VERY PAMPERED LIFE, SO HE MAY BE A LITTLE SELFISH, BUT...
A LITTLE ?
HE'S ACTUALLY A SWEET, KIND BOY.
I HOPE YOU'LL REMAIN HIS FRIEND.
O-OF COURSE!

...WHAT WERE YOU AND KOYUKI TALKING ABOUT?
YOU WANT TO KNOW?
TOMORROW IS THE BIRTH FESTIVAL, YOU SHOULD GET TO BED EARLY TONIGHT, TWELVE.
HMPH!
N-NOT REALLY...

YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONE. ACT LIKE IT.
...THE BIRTH FESTIVAL, HUH?
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY TOO...
GRR!
WHAP
WH-WHO SAID I WAS WORRIED?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.

I KNOW! I'M THE CHOSEN ONE! I'M THE SUCCESSOR TO THE ORCHIS THRONE!
IT'S JUST, UH...
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE SULKING... A LITTLE.
...
I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE. IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO HURT MY FEELINGS.


THE ANTI-ROYALIST GUERRILLA GROUPS ARE PREPARING TO STRIKE AT ANY MOMENT.
SHOULD WE REALLY BE LETTING THIS STREET GIRL WANDER AROUND THE PALACE?

NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY LOSE, PLEASE STAY AS HONEST AS YOU ARE NOW, FOREVER.

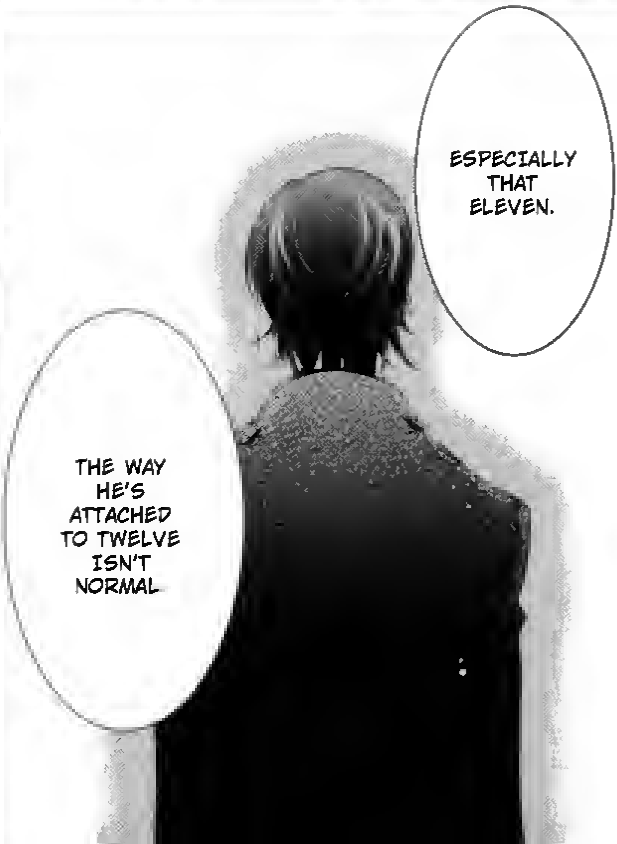
PLEASE STAY JUST AS YOU ARE...

TWELVE DOESN'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS HIS OWN AGE...
SURELY, THAT GIRL'S VISITS DON'T PRESENT A PROBLEM?
NO, SIR.
I THINK WE CAN ALLOW THEM THAT MUCH FREEDOM.
...SURE WE CAN.
EIGHT, I THINK YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE TWO.

S-SIX!!
B... BROTHER !!
I'M SURE THAT'S A BIG WEIGHT OFF YOUR SHOULDERS.
YOU ALWAYS PUSH IT ONTO OTHERS.
GRR!
DON'T YOU TREAT ME LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF MONSTER!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FROM ME?! STOP IT THIS INSTANT!
EEK !!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO CALL ME "SISTER"?!

IT'S ABOUT TIME...
THOSE BOYS WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

I THINK THAT WAS UNAVOIDABLE CONSIDERING THEIR FATE.


ESPECIALLY THAT ELEVEN.
THE WAY HE'S ATTACHED TO TWELVE ISN'T NORMAL

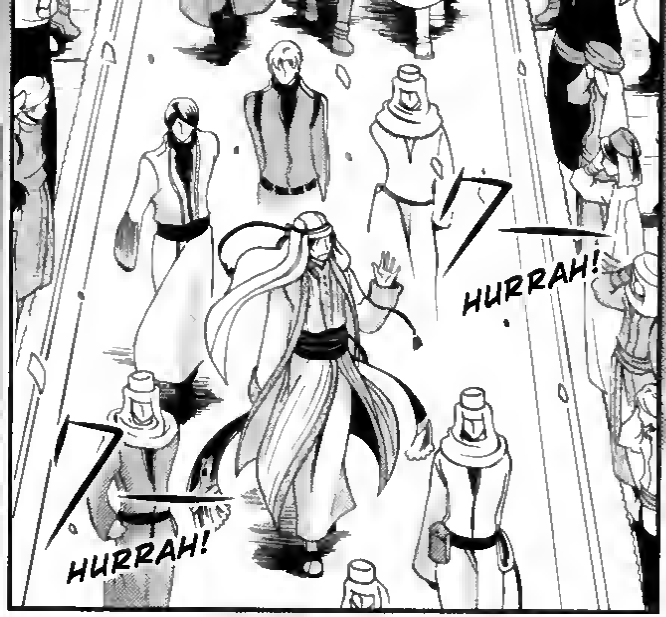
YOU'RE GOING TO SUGARCOAT IT WITH THAT WORD?
...FATE?
HEH...
NOT THAT I'VE GOT ROOM TO TALK.
KOYU, OVER HERE! OVER HERE!

HURRAH!
WOW!
HURRAH!
HURRAH!
HURRAH!

HE ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE A PRINCE TODAY.
I GUESS THE UNIFORM REALLY DOES MAKE THE MAN.
WHERE'S PRINCE ELEVEN?
THIS IS ISA'S BIRTH FESTIVAL.
ELEVEN IS IBLIS.
MISS SILSILAH!

IBLIS? WASN'T PRINCE ELEVEN BORN ON THE SAME DAY AS PRINCE TWELVE?
OF COURSE.
BUT...
ELEVEN EXISTS SOLEY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT TWELVE IS THE YOUNGER TWIN... THAT HE IS ISA.
WHAT?

THIS COUNTRY NEEDS ONLY ISA.
IBLIS IS ALLOWED TO LIVE FOR THAT PURPOSE.



ONCE, A PAIR OF TWIN BROTHERS FOUGHT OVER THIS COUNTRY'S CROWN.

BUT THAT'S...

THE VICTOR, THE YOUNGER BROTHER, WAS REVERED AS THEIR GOD, "ISA."
WHILE THE LOSER THE ELDER TWIN WAS SCORNED AS THE DEVIL "IBLIS."
WHEN ISA, THE YOUNGER TWIN TAKES THE THRONE...
TO THIS DAY, NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

IBLIS IS PURGED.
"PURGED"? THAT'S SO OUTDATED...
IN ORCHIS, TIME STANDS STILL.

THIS COUNTRY IS STILL STUCK IN THE DAYS OF MYTH.
LIKE A STUBBORN OLD MAN.
OR A CHILD WHO KNOWS NO BETTER.

!
WH-WHAT THE?!
WHOA!
EEK!!
THE LAND KNOWS NAUGHT...
BUT LAMENT.

WHUMP
!
CLENCH
NOW DIE!
TWELVE !!
GRAB
ガッ

GH!
GLANG
カラン
DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH MY BROTHER?
!
ELEVEN !!

IBLIS!
WHAT'S HE DOING AT THIS HOLY SITE?!
THIS BODES ILL...
IBLIS ?!
WE DIDN'T NEED YOUR HELP!
I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED WITH TWELVE'S SAFTEY THAN MY WHERE-ABOUTS.
YOUR SECURITY'S A LITTLE LAX, EIGHT.
I GAVE HIM PER-MISSION.
TWELVE?
GRIN

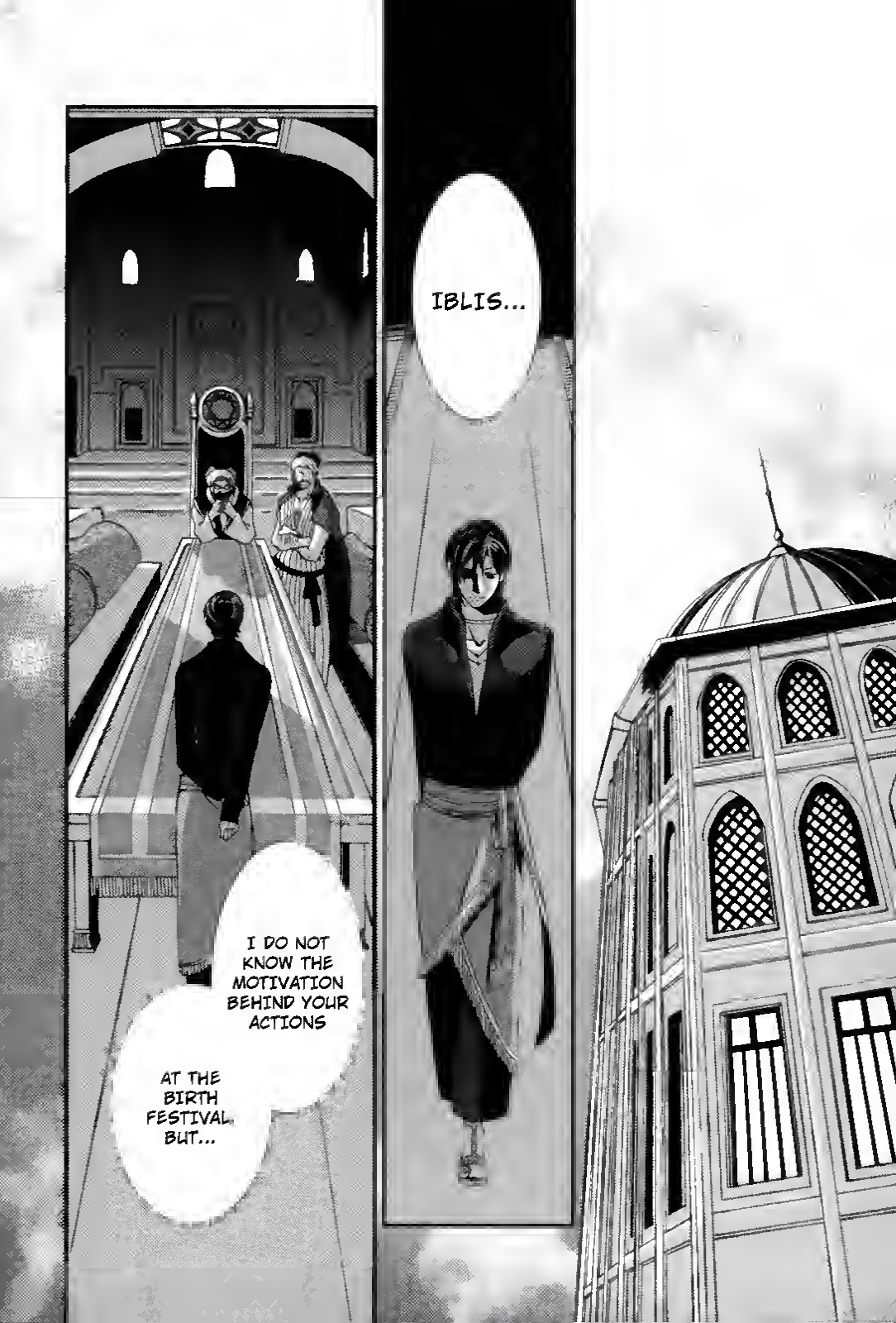
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HELPS ME...
WHEN I'M IN TROUBLE, RIGHT?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
ELEVEN.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ISA.
CAN YOU MOVE THE HANDS OF THIS WORLD?

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

CHAPTER 3:
TRACES


IBLIS...
I DO NOT KNOW THE MOTIVATION BEHIND YOUR ACTIONS
AT THE BIRTH FESTIVAL, BUT...

YOU ARE TO EXIST IN THE SHADOW OF ISA, OUR COUNTRY'S OBJECT OF WORSHIP.
DO NOT FORGET YOUR ROLE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, IBLIS?
ALL WILL BE DONE ACCORDING TO THE COUNCIL'S WISHES...
OF COURSE, SECOND, MY BROTHER.

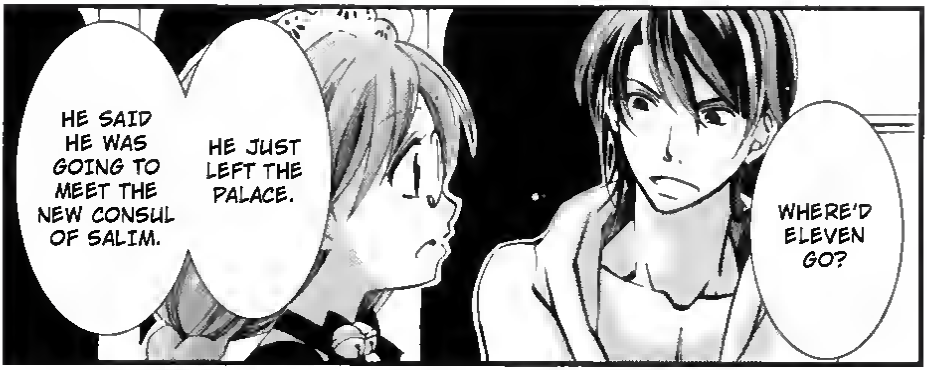
I WILL GLADLY GIVE MY FLESH AND BLOOD...
TO SUPPORT MY COUNTRY.
WHAT A CREEPY BASTARD...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S SMILING RIGHT NOW.
THIRD.

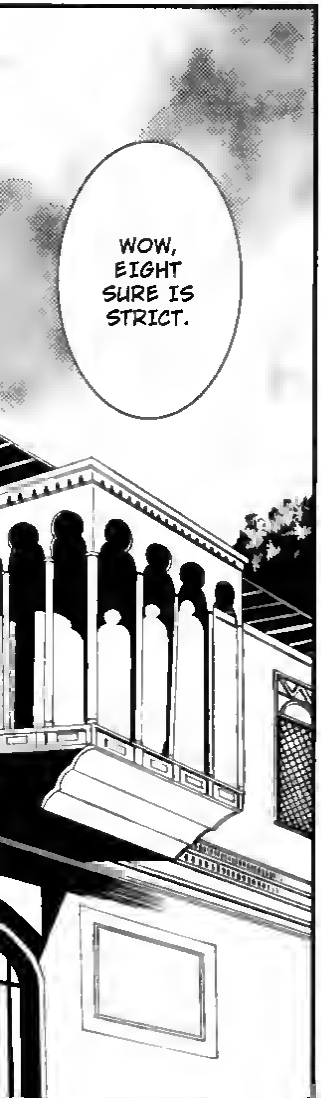
WOULD YOU RATHER SEE ME BROOD?

I HEAR FOUR'S COMING HOME SOON.
YES.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. I'LL BET LULU'S THRILLED.
WHEN ARE THEY EVER QUIET?
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE BIRTH FESTIVAL.
LISTEN, TWELVE, THE PRIESTS AREN'T GOING TO KEEP QUIET...

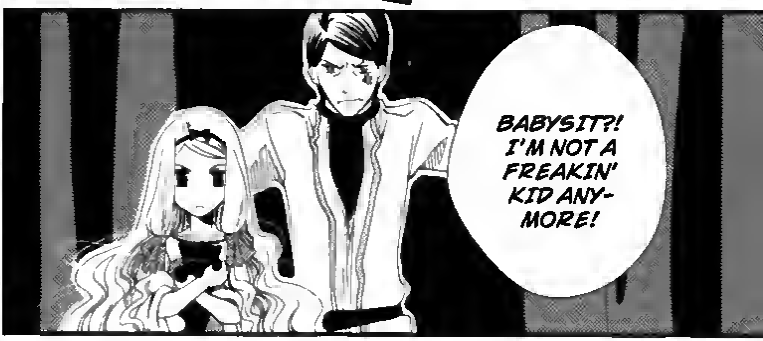
THIS COULD EASILY COME BACK TO BITE US IN THE ASS.
EVEN THE HIGH PRIEST HAS HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
...HIGH PRIEST MISSMAR, EH?

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING ORDERS FROM ANYONE.
I AM THE SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE.
THE SAME GOES FOR HIM.
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME, TWELVE?!
HEY, MICHAELA.
THIS COUNTRY CANNOT STAND WITHOUT ISAISM!
TWELVE! SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR THE CHURCH!


WHERE'D ELEVEN GO?
HE JUST LEFT THE PALACE.
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO MEET THE NEW CONSUL OF SALIM.


WOW, EIGHT SURE IS STRICT.

HUH?! WHY IS HE THE ONE GOING?!
HE'S PROBABLY JUST FED UP WITH HAVING TO BABYSIT YOUR BUTT ALL THE TIME.
WHA ?!

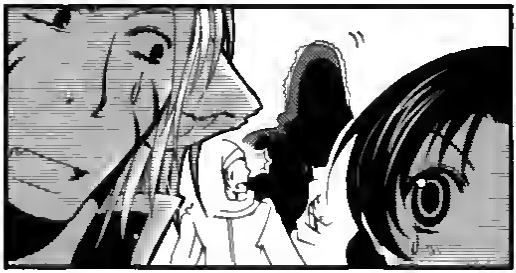

BABYSIT?! I'M NOT A FREAKIN' KID ANY-MORE!

WELL, HE IS WHAT YOU'D CALL A VERY DEVOUT ISAIST.
...
THE PRIESTS HAVE ALL BEEN ON EDGE LATELY, HUH?
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT SUCH THINGS, SILSILAH.
SO I'M BEING LEFT OUT AGAIN?
I'M JUST SAYING THERE'S NO REASON TO GET YOURSELF MIXED UP IN ALL THIS.
YOU SURE ARE LAID-BACK, ASWAD.

I KNOW, I'M AS LAID-BACK AS A CAT.
ARE YOU MOCKING TAMBOU-RINE?!
HE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT HE'S A LOT MORE EXPERI-ENCED THAN THE LIKES OF YOU!
HE'S AWESOME! HE PRACTICALLY RUNS THE BACK ALLEYS OF THIS TOWN!
FOR REAL?!
...EVERY-ONE...
LOVES YOU, THEIR DEAR LITTLE SISTER.

...
I DON'T THINK SO...
AT THE VERY LEAST,
I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE FOR YOU IN AN INSTANT...
SILSILAH.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
OH, IS THAT SO?

A NEW CONSUL?
YES, I HEAR HE'S FROM THE PAI LONG CLAN OF TAIHO, A PIRATE FAMILY...
WELL, WE CALL THEM PIRATES, BUT...
THEY'RE BASICALLY LIKE THE NOBLES OF THE AREA.
WOW,
SO EVEN PIRATES CAN BECOME CONSULS?



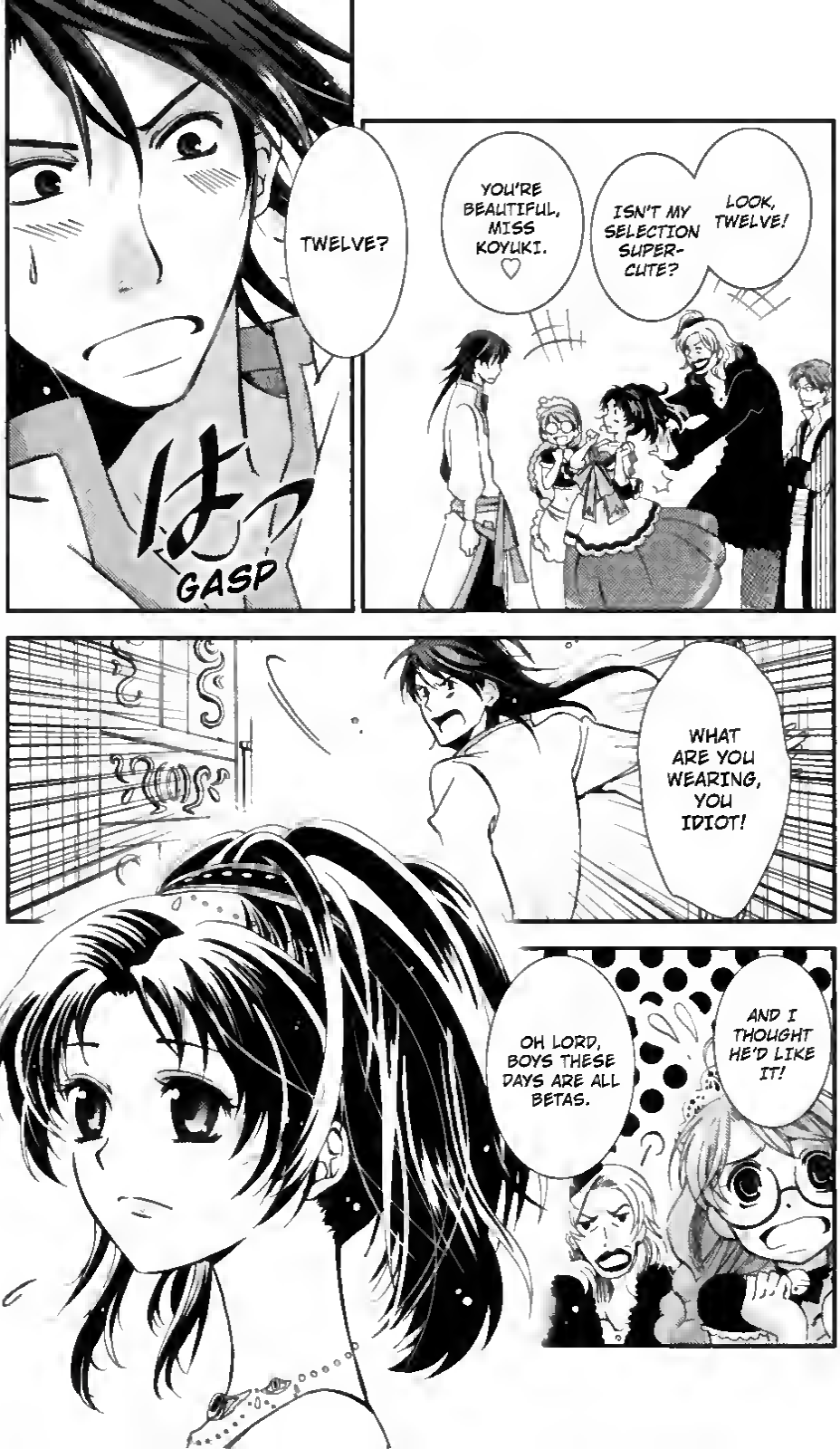
!
LOOM

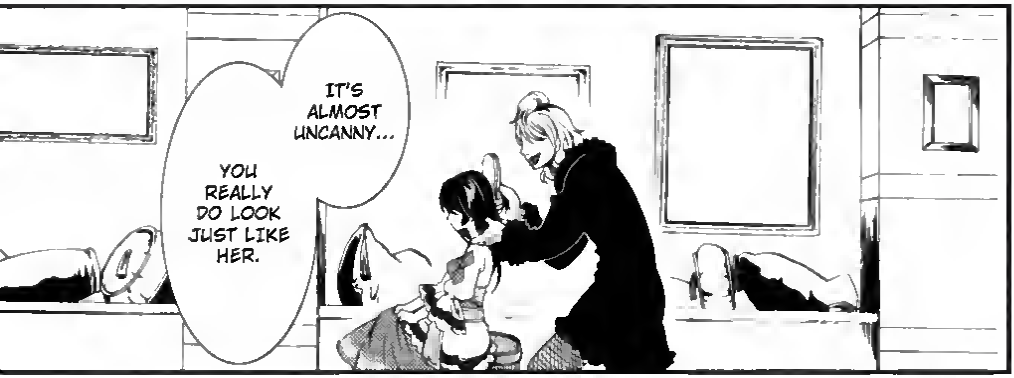
WOW, DID YOU SEE THAT GUY? HE WAS HUGE!
BIGGER THAN YOU!
WITH THAT BROWN SKIN, HE'S PROBABLY ONE OF THE BEDOUIN NAJM.
WASN'T HE?

THIS TOWN IS FULL OF IMMIGRANTS LIKE ME.
GOOD POINT.
THE BEDOUIN ARE THE DESERT PEOPLE, RIGHT? ARE THEY ALL THAT BIG?
NO, EVEN THE NAJM DON'T USUALLY GET THAT BIG... MAYBE HE'S A FOREIGNER?
NOPE.
WAIT, KOYUKI, YOU'RE NOT FROM ORCHIS?
I WONDER WHAT MICHAELA NEEDS ME FOR?
COME ON, LET'S JUST HURRY TO THE PALACE.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
SO THAT'S WHY YOUR SKIN'S SO LIGHT.

OH MY!
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE ME IN MY YOUNGER DAYS!
LOOK IN A MIRROR, YOU MONSTER!
YOU LOOK GREAT, KOYU!
IT'S REALLY CUTE!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DO...

...MOTHER...


はっ
GASP
TWELVE?
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, MISS KOYUKI.
ISN'T MY SELECTION SUPER-CUTE?
LOOK, TWELVE!
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING, YOU IDIOT!
OH LORD, BOYS THESE DAYS ARE ALL BETAS.
AND I THOUGHT HE'D LIKE IT!


IT'S ALMOST UNCANNY...
YOU REALLY DO LOOK JUST LIKE HER.

!
NOT ME, THAMANYA!
WATCH YOUR MOUTH!
TAKE A LOOK IN THE MIRROR !!
YOU MUST BE DREAM-ING!

THAMANYA WAS ELEVEN AND TWELVE'S MOTHER.
SHE WAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
...YOU KNOW THAT TWINS ARE CONSIDERED VERY SPECIAL IN ORCHIS, DON'T YOU?
YES...
REALLY, THEY'RE MORE THAN SPECIAL.
IN THIS COUNTRY, TWINS ARE BORN ONLY TO ROYAL BLOOD.

"TWINS ARE BORN ONLY TO ROYAL BLOOD."
DOUBT HAS NO PLACE IN FAITH.
HUH? WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
THAT IS THIS LAND'S ABSOLUTE TRUTH.
BUT THAT'S...

THAMANYA GAVE BIRTH TO THOSE TWINS...
AND THAT'S WHAT STARTED EVERY-THING.
...HONESTLY, TWELVE IS SO REGAL I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIM...
YOU COULD ALSO CALL IT RECK-LESS.
HA, YOU CERTAINLY COULD!

BUT I MUST SAY, I LIKE THAT ABOUT HIM.
YOU DO?
I KNOW HE'D BE THRILLED TO HEAR THAT.
SORRY ABOUT TODAY, LUTEEN.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO CALL YOU OUT HERE JUST TO COMPLAIN.
HOW IS THAT ANY DIFFERENT THAN NORMAL?
I'M IGNORING MOST OF IT, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
...WHICH MEANS YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO A WORD I'M SAYING?
I THOUGHT I WAS JUST IMAGINING IT...
...I THINK IT'S YOUR FAULT HE'S SO RECKLESS, ELEVEN.
...HUH?

UGH!
YOU SPOIL HIM TOO MUCH
...I KNOW...
THE ONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO LET GO...
IS ME.

MOTHER...
SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH ME.
TWELVE.
...ARE YOU STILL WEARING THAT?

SHUT UP!
WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOME-THING?
...

I CAME TO DELIVER SOME BAKED GOODS, BUT THEN SIX GRABBED ME...

HUH ?!
YOU JUST LOOKED AT MY CHEST!

WHUMP
ばっ!

WHA?!
WHO'D WANNA LOOK AT YOUR PITIFUL CHEST?!
SMACK
YOU'RE THE WORST!
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE HER...
YOU AREN'T ONE BIT LIKE HER!

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

THE
TWELVE
HOUR
RULER
SUNDAY

SHH...
EEK!
GEEZ, THIS STORM CAME OUT OF NO-WHERE!
?!
SHAKE
SHAKE
THERE HE IS AGAIN!
HE'S HUGE!
IS HE WITH THE MIB, THAT SECRET ORGANIZA-TION THAT MONITORS EXTRATER-RESTRIAL LIFE?!
FWIP

HUH? BUT...
I DON'T MIND GETTING A LITTLE WET.
HUH?
PLEASE, TAKE IT.
I'M NO ONE WORTH MENTION-ING.
YOU CAN KEEP THE UMBRELLA, MISS!
AHAHA!
I COULDN'T PUT YOU OUT LIKE THAT!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
WELL, IF YOU INSIST...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? I'LL BE SURE TO RETURN IT.
HUH ?!
OH, UM...
WHAT A NICE GUY

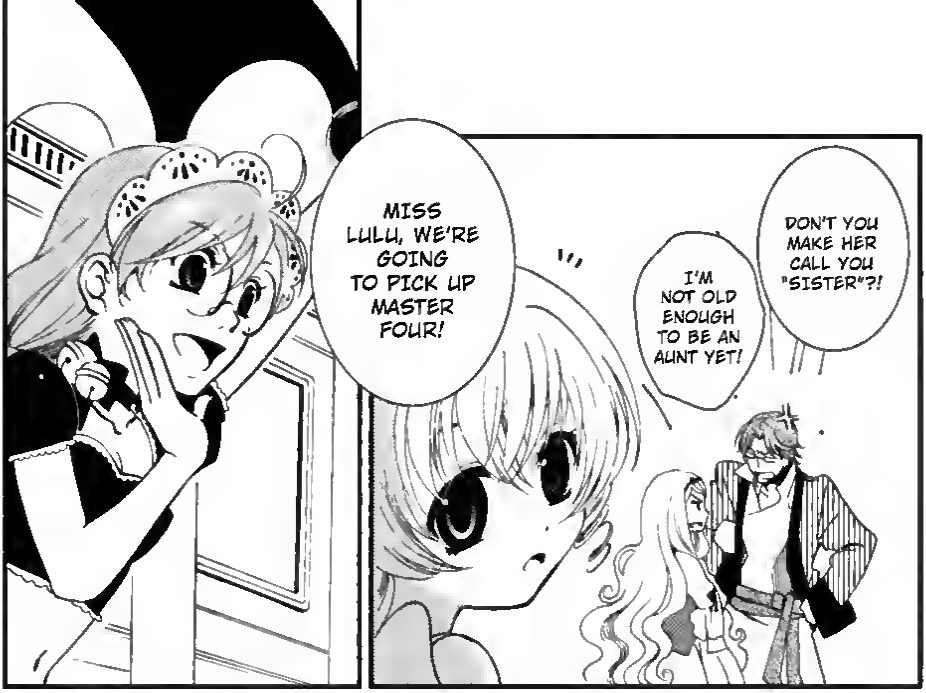
CHAPTER 4: IN SEARCH OF SKAZY (PART ONE)

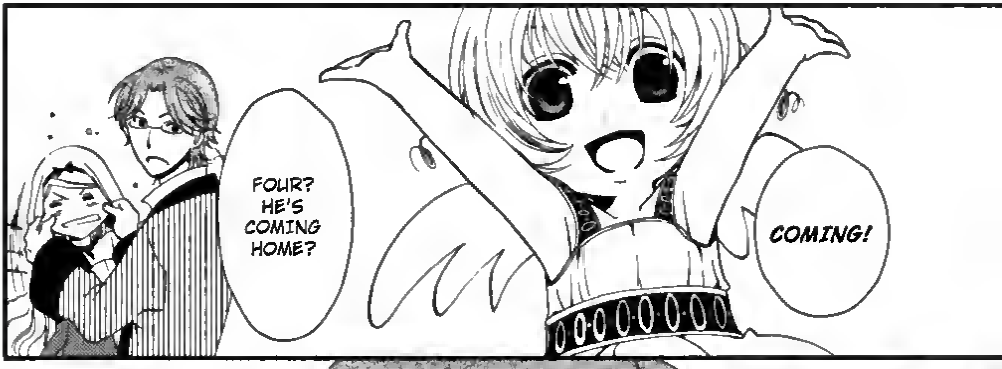
WHAP
MICHAELA, GO GET LULU!
ROGER!
...ALL RIGHT! DONE!
FOUR'S COMING INTO PORT TODAY!
SALIM!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING!
WELL, YOU DON'T USUALLY GO TO PORT TO PICK UP OUR BROTHERS.
YOU'RE GONNA GIVE PEOPLE THE WRONG IDEA!
I JUST FELT LIKE GETTING OUT OF THE PALACE TODAY, IS ALL!
UGH!
WELL, THAT IS TRUE, BUT...
SO YOU'RE GOING TO SEE MISS KOYUKI?
OH,

NOW, ELEVEN!
WHAT IS IT?
PRETEND?! IT'S THE TRUTH!
WHUMP
I GUESS I COULD PRETEND TO BELIEVE THAT.
YOU'RE UP, DOUBLE.
WIG
SEE YA!
...AM I NOTHING BUT A COPY ROBOT TO YOU TWELVE?
YOUR BIG BROTHER IS VERY SAD

...AND WITH THAT, SKAZY VANISHED INTO THE RAINSTORM.
MAN, THIS GUY'S A BEAST!
SKAZY'S SO COOL!
EXACTLY.
IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THIS SKAZY IS SOME SORT OF MONSTER.
MONSTER?
THEY HAVE SOME SCARY STUFF IN THIS PICTURE BOOK.
WHAT KIND OF BOOK IS THIS ANYWAY?

"THE RULER OF TIME."
IT'S A VERY HIP, YOUNG PICTURE BOOK DOWN IN THE PORT.
AND LULU LOVES THIS SKAZY CHARACTER.
I LIKE STUFF THAT'S COOL!
OH? THEN WHY DON'T YOU LET YOUR BIG BROTHER READ YOU THAT BOOK?
COME SIT IN MY LAP.
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR ULTERIOR MOTIVE, ASWAD.
...HOW RUDE!
YOU DARE ACCUSE A PURE LOVER OF CHILDREN LIKE ME OF...
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIKING KIDS AND BEING A PEDOPHILE!
AND IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU'RE HER AUNT! DON'T MAKE HER CALL YOU THINGS THAT WILL CONFUSE HER!


MISS LULU, WE'RE GOING TO PICK UP MASTER FOUR!
!!!
I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO BE AN AUNT YET!
DON'T YOU MAKE HER CALL YOU "SISTER"?!

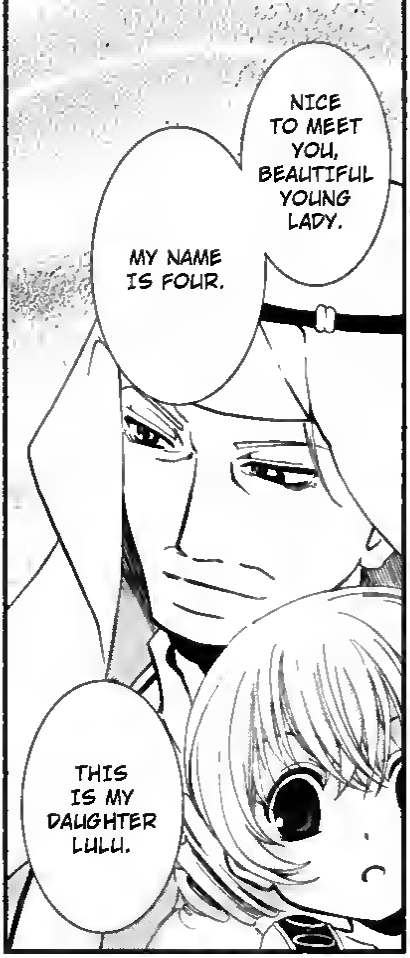

FOUR? HE'S COMING HOME?
COMING!

WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
I CAN'T. THEY TOLD ME TO BE CAREFUL OF YOU, MADAM ASWAD.
MICHA, WHY DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT THAT GEEZER...
AND COME WITH ME ON A DATE?

MASTER ELEVEN TOLD ME THAT EVEN IF YOU ARE A WOMAN
I SHOULDN'T LET DOWN MY GUARD AROUND YOU.
WHAT ?!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK ABOUT YOUR SISTER?!
YES.
A VERY ACCURATE ASSESS-MENT.
YOU WANT TO TRY ME, SILSILAH ?!
BRING IT ON, PERVERT!
LET'S GO, MISS LULU.
OKAY.
PORT OF SALIM
PAPA!

PAPA! PAPA! PAPA!
OVER HERE, MASTER FOUR!
I'M HOME, LULU.
WELCOME HOME, PAPA!
MY LITTLE ANGEL.
LET ME GET A BETTER LOOK AT YOUR FACE,
AHH, YOU GET MORE ADORABLE BY THE DAY... YOU'RE MAKING ME DIZZY.
MY DAYS AWAY FROM YOU WERE LIKE TRAVERSING A MOONLESS DESERT.
AHH, MY DARLING GARDEN OF ETERNAL SPRING
MASTER FOUR NEVER CHANGES...

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I WAS SO LONELY BEING AWAY FROM YOUR BIRD-LIKE SONG.
AND NOW YOU...
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.
WELCOME BACK, SIR.
YEAH.
I'M HOME, TWELVE, MICHAELA.
LET'S GO GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT!
MAN, YOU'RE IMPATIENT.
THERE'S THIS THING CALLED SAVORING THE MOMENT...
OH!
WELCOME, MICHAELA.
HELLO, KOYU!


NICE TO MEET YOU, BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY.
MY NAME IS FOUR.
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER LULU.

WELCOME TO YOU TOO, TWELVE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "TOO"?
THAT SOUNDED REALLY FORCED

WHO IS THIS?
NO ONE.
SHE'S JUST SOME WAITRESS I KNOW.
JEEZ! THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK ABOUT KOYUKI, MASTER TWELVE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MICHAELA
JEEZ!

OH, I'M KOYUKI. KOYUKI OKAGAMI.
KOYUKI?
YES.
I KNOW I'M GETTING A LITTLE LONG IN THE TOOTH, BUT I AM TWELVE'S ETERNAL BROTHER. AND YOU ARE?

FOUR?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE ONE OF TWELVE'S BROTHERS?

UM... IN YOUR LANGUAGE, I BELIEVE IT MEANS "TINY SNOW."
IT... IT IS?
SNOW?! WHY, THAT'S A WONDERFUL NAME!
IN THIS LAND COVERED IN HOT, PARCHED DESERT,
"SNOW" IS A SYMBOL OF GREAT JOY.
I WILL PRAY THAT YOUR FUTURE IS FULL OF HAPPINESS AS WELL,
MAIDEN OF JOY.
ENOUGH ALREADY!
HEY, NO PULLING.
YANK

EVERYONE, DECIDE ON YOUR ORDER!
MAN. YOU REALLY ARE IM-PATIENT.
STARE...
OH.
CLENCH...
HMM? WHAT IS IT, LULU?
WHAT'S WRONG?
SHE'S JUST BASHFUL. LULU DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS...
COME ON, LULU, GO SAY "HELLO."

COME ON, LULU.
SHE JUST WANTS TO PLAY. I'LL EVEN GO WITH YOU.
SQUEEZE
...WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH YOU?
YOU'RE GROWING UP RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
DADDY'S SO PROUD OF YOU!
SHAKE
SHAKE
GOOD! THATTA GIRL, LULU!
I'LL GO.
OH, DON'T TALK LIKE THAT.
...LOOK AT MR. FATHER OF THE YEAR.

IS SHE THE ONE?
OH, BY THE WAY...
HUH?
DAUGHTERS ARE SPECIAL.
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.
WHISPER
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HUH?!
THAT THERE WAS A GIRL WITH AN IRON GRIP ON YOUR HEART.
ELEVEN TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT.
HUH?
ELEVEN HAS A HIGH OPINION OF HER AS WELL.
OH, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT. SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

I THINK THAT BOY MAY HAVE FEELINGS FOR HER AS WELL.
?!
PAPA!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL ROMANTIC!
TWINS AND RIVALS IN LOVE, EH?

I'M SORRY SHE'S SUCH A SPOILED CHILD.
I GUESS WE'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT OFFER...
Y-YES, BUT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME.
HUH? A SLEEP-OVER?
I'M GONNA SLEEP-OVER!
OH, SO YOU MADE FRIENDS?
A-ALL RIGHT, LULU...
SHAKE
SLEEP-OVER.
SHAKE
YOU'RE NOT WITH ELEVEN TODAY?
WE'RE NOT JOINED AT THE HIP.
TWELVE?

?
...YOU INTERESTED IN ELEVEN OR SOMETHING?
WHO CARES ABOUT ELEVEN ANYWAY?
WHAT ARE YOU SO MAD ABOUT?
...SURE, HE'S NICE,
AND HE DOES HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION AMONG THE LADIES...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
PRINCE ELEVEN IS A VERY WISE AND CONSIDERATE PERSON.
PLUS, HE'S A LOT CALMER THAN YOU.
AND HE'S A GENTLEMAN.
AND REFINED.
AND HE'S CAPABLE.
...AND TALL.

...!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK, BUT...
ELEVEN WOULD NEVER EVEN DREAM OF TAKING YOU SERIOUSLY!
GASP
?
IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL "SPINNING YOUR WHEELS?"
AH, TO BE YOUNG.

SHH...
WAIT A MINUTE!
I KNOW YOU HATE THE EMPEROR, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?!
COME WITH ME!
"YATEEM" WILL ACCEPT YOU!

SNAP
THEY EVEN ACCEPTED A MONSTER LIKE ME...
SHUT UP!
I DON'T TRUST ANYONE!
!!
OH CRAP... !!
GRAB
WAH!
PHEW...
WHOA!

FLASH
L-LET'S TALK THIS OUT... OKAY?
SHH...

WAKE UP, PAPA.
WHAT IS IT, LULU?
...
I GOTTA PEE.
OH, SURE, SURE.
REAL BAD.
JUST A DREAM, HUH?
NO!
CLOSE THE DOOR WHILE YOU GO, LULU.
GASP!
PAPA!
PAPA.
PAPA.

THUD
...IS THERE SOME-THING ON THE ROOF?
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP
?
RUSTLE
CRACK
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP
IS THAT THE MICE RUNNING AROUND ?
YEP.
SOUNDS LIKE IT.
DID THE MICE GET MAD?
WHAT IS ALL THAT RACKET?
ENDED UP SPENDING THE NIGHT AS WELL.

!
SKAZY!
IT'S SKAZY!
WHAT HAPPENED, LULU?
THAT LOOKS LIKE...

SKAZY!
SKAZY!
SKAZY!
WHAT'S THIS "SKAZY" SHE'S TALKING ABOUT?
YOU DON'T KNOW? HE'S A CHARACTER FROM MISS LULU'S FAVORITE PICTURE BOOK.
HUH?
IT'S PRETTY POPULAR. IT'S CALLED "THE RULER OF TIME."
MON-STER?
HOW STUPID!
AREN'T ALL MONSTERS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME ANYWAY?
LET'S TAKE HIM HOME!

RISE
!
I WANNA TAKE HIM HOME!
HUH?!
W-WAIT A SECOND, LULU! YOU KNOW WE CAN'T DO THAT...
UM...
NOW, NOW!
I'M SURE HE HAS HIS OWN BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF...
Y-YOU'RE AWAKE...
ZY!
UM... I HATE TO ASK, BUT...
BOW
OH, YES. GOOD MORN-ING.
YES, THANK YOU. GOOD MORNING.

THE ROOF?
WHERE IS THIS?
A TAVERN IN SALIM.
YOU FELL THROUGH THE ROOF AND PASSED OUT.
...WHO AM I ANYWAY?
HUH?

DON'T BE STUPID !!
ROAR
RING...
キィーン...
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN LET A MONSTER WITH AMNESIA RUN AROUND THE PALACE! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, BROTHER?!
THROB
THROB
WELL, HE SEEMS LIKE A FINE YOUNG MAN...
MONSTERS CAN'T BE FINE YOUNG MEN! THEY'RE MONSTERS! THEY'RE THE PRODUCTS OF EVIL MAGIC!
DO YOU HAVE SHIP LAG?!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, FOUR ?!
BUT HE IS ALREADY HERE...
PUT HIM BACK WHERE YOU FOUND HIM!
UNCLE EIGHT...

SHAKE
SHAKE
I'LL GIVE YOU CANDY.

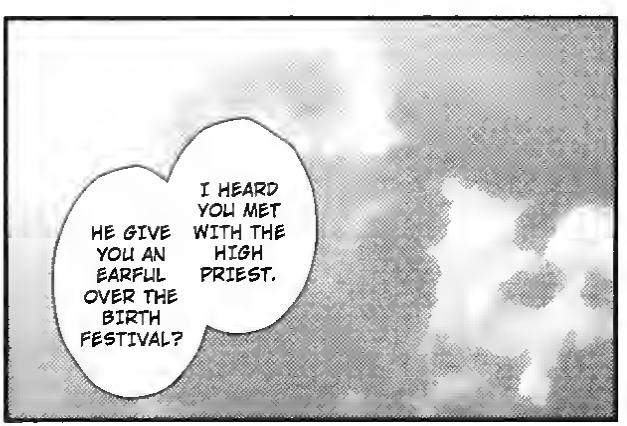
BUT IF HE CAUSES EVEN THE SLIGHTEST PROBLEM, HE'S OUT OF HERE!
YEAH, YEAH!
YOU DID IT, LULU!
FOUR!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
ALL RIGHT!!
...LET'S SEE HOW IT WORKS OUT.
PHEW, WHAT A RELIEF!
OH, OF COURSE! ASK ME ANYTHING!
YES, ALTHOUGH YOU WILL BE TREATED AS MY SERVANT...
WHAT?
I CAN STAY HERE?
OH, THE GIRL THAT WAS WITH YOU EARLIER?
I MOSTLY WANT YOU TO LOOK AFTER MY DAUGHTER.
SKAZY?
SURE, WHATEVER WORKS.
AND SINCE WE DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME...
WE'RE GOING TO CALL YOU "SKAZY" FOR CONVENIENCE' SAKE. IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

WOW!
HE REALLY DOES LOOK JUST LIKE "SKAZY."
HE'S HUGE! AND DARK!
STEPPED OUT OF IT?
TO ME, IT LOOKS MORE LIKE...
IT'S LIKE HE STEPPED RIGHT OUT OF LULU'S PICTURE BOOK...
THE BOOK WAS BASED ON HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
...?!
ISN'T THAT THE MOST NATURAL WAY OF LOOKING AT IT?

MISSMAR, YOUR GRACE.

I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING TO YOU.
OH, STOP, IBLIS!
AT THE BIRTH FEST-IVAL.
I ASK YOUR FORGIVE-NESS FOR THE FUSS I CAUSED...
...AND NEXT YEAR...
THE BIRTH FESTIVAL WILL COINCIDE WITH ISA'S RITE OF SUCCESSION.

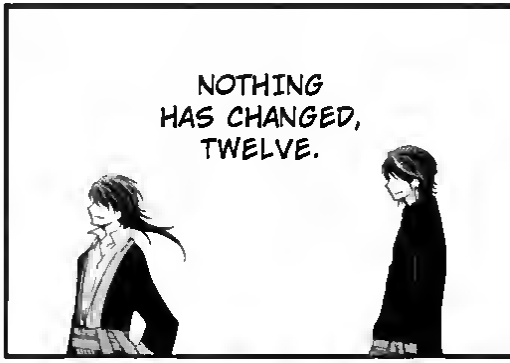
EVEN IF IT IS TO PROTECT ORCHIS... TO PROTECT ISAISM...
I REGRET THAT I HAVE TO FORCE YOU INTO THIS FATE.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY IMPOTENCE, IBLIS.
IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT, YOUR GRACE.

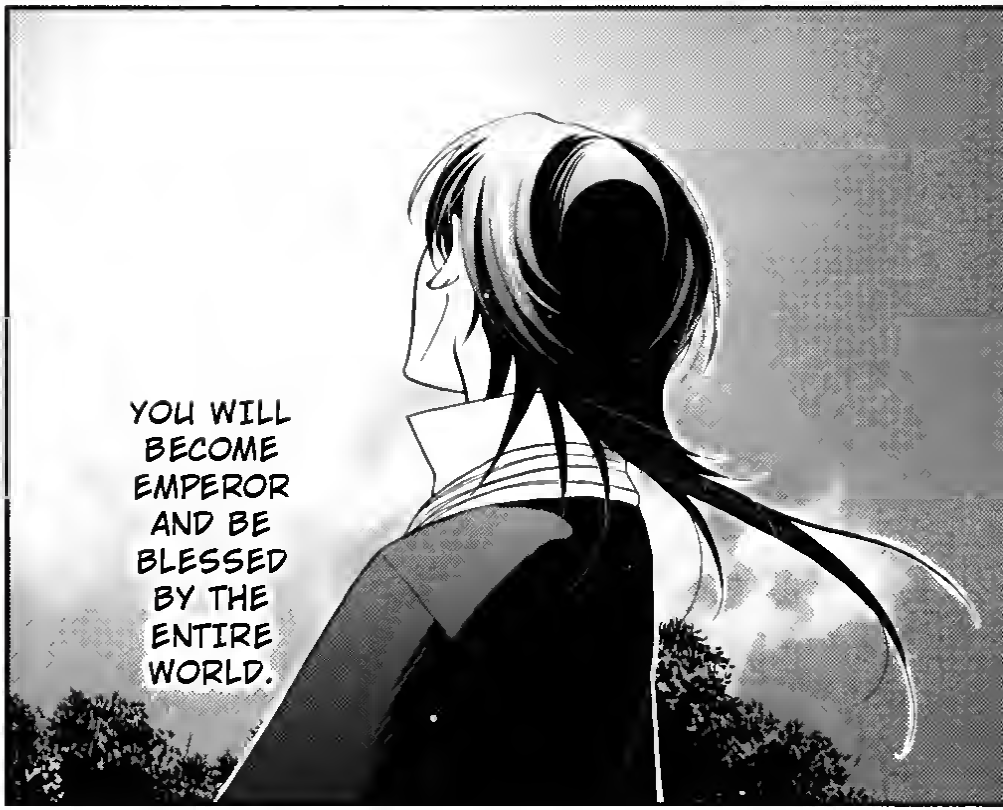


I CHOSE THIS FATE MYSELF.

?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
WELL, YOU'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO ACT SO COOL!
EVERYONE ALWAYS MISUNDER-STANDS YOU FOR THE BETTER.
TRUE.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT LAUGHING THINGS OFF WITH A SMILE.
AHAHA!
THAT SIDE OF YOU HASN'T CHANGED A BIT SINCE WE WERE KIDS!
...THAT'S RIGHT.

JUST AS IN THE FUTURE WE WISHED FOR BACK THEN...


NOTHING HAS CHANGED, TWELVE.


YOU WILL BECOME EMPEROR AND BE BLESSED BY THE ENTIRE WORLD.

EVEN IF I'M NOT A PART OF THAT WORLD.

SERIALIZED IN
'NEXTCOMIC FIRST'
DEC. 2009 - MAR. 2010

HEY!
DON'T CHANGE MY WALL-PAPER!
NOW I'LL ALWAYS BE AT YOUR SIDE!
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME HAPPY?!
...?
"I-IT'S NOT LIKE IT MAKES ME HAPPY EITHER ..."?
LET'S TRY THE YANDERE ATTACK NEXT.
LOOKS LIKE THE TSUNDERE ATTACK IS A BUST.

ME? WHO? OVERLORD!
I'M GOING HOME!
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT MY FEEL-INGS!
GOOD WORK. BE IN TOMORROW AT SEVEN, OKAY?
?
I'M NEVER COMIN' BACK!
AND IT'S NO USE TRYING TO LURE ME BACK WITH SWEET WORDS!
...WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.
End

REALLY?
YOU DON'T PUT ON WEIGHT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU EAT, HUH, OFFICER?
...WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR GOAL HERE?
HOW DO YOU THINK I CAN GET SHORTER?
WEIGHT? YOU MEAN MUSCLE.
MAN, I GAIN WEIGHT LIKE CRAZY...
PLUS, I TAN NO MATTER HOW MUCH SUNSCREEN I WEAR...
THAT'S A TAN?
End

LUNCH MENU
(11:30~14:00)
'PASTA' NAPOLITAN CARBONARA PEPERONCINO VONGOLE BIANCO OYSTER CREAM
• PASTA CHICKEN AND SPINACH CREAM PASTA
'PASTA LUNCH' SPAGHETTI OF THE DAY SALAD DRINK
'PIZZA LUNCH' PIZZA OF THE DAY SALAD DRINK
'DELUXE LUNCH' SPAGHETTI OF THE DAY SALAD BREAD DRINK
YEESH, THIS ISN'T MY LUCKY DAY. I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE WAS ONLY ONE TABLE OPEN.

WHY DO I HAVE TO SHARE A TABLE WITH HE LIKES OF...
JUST HURRY UP AND PICK SOME-THING.
UM...
UH...
HEY!
DING-DONG

I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GIVE ME ANOTHER MINUTE?!
UM...
SHE'S LOOKING AT ME! I CAN'T HANDLE THE RESPON-SIBILITY!
UH...
MY STOMACH HURTS! I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE! MY STOMACH!
TWO PASTA LUNCHES.
HEY!
End

WEAR THIS.
HERE.
NO WAY! I'M NOT WEARING THIS! IT LOOKS LIKE IT CAME OUT OF MAD MAX!
CLANK
I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO PERSONALLY CHOOSE IT FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE SO INDECISIVE.
YOU SHOULD FEEL HONORED.
EVEN I HAVE MY PREFERENCES!

GIVE IT A SHOT.
WELL, I SUPPOSE SO.
DON'T I AT LEAST HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE MY OWN CLOTHES?!
WHAP
WHICH DO YOU THINK LOOKS...

End

カチ
CLACK
MESSAGE DISPLAY
FUSE
TODAY'S PLANS
THE USUAL DRUGSTORE WAS OUT OF YOUR FAVORITE FABRIC SOFTENER.
YOU SAID THAT I'VE BEEN USING TOO MUCH DISHWASHING DETERGENT LATELY, BUT IF YOU DON'T USE ENOUGH, THE DISHES DON'T GET CLEAN, SO I'D LIKE TO KEEP THE SAME ABOUT AS NORMAL ON.
?
I'D LIKE TO AVOID TALKING TO YOU DIRECTLY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SO PLEASE SEND YOUR REQUESTS BY TEXT FROM NOW ON.
WHY ARE YOU TEXTING ME WHEN I'M RIGHT HERE?

\(^o^)/
?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE TEXTING, WE COULD USE A CHAT ROOM OR TWITTER INSTEAD. I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, SO I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU DIDN'T CALL ME ANY-MORE. AND NO VIDEO CHAT EITHER! I WISH TO AVOID YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SO PLEASE DON'T TRY TO
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.
TALK!
THUNK
End

OFFICER.
NOW, ABOUT LAST MONTH'S TOILET CLEANING DUTIES...
AND IT FELT LIKE YOU USED TOO MUCH LAUNDRY DETER-GENT, SO I...
OFFICER.
SHUT UP.
THIS IS IMPORTANT.
OFFICER.
?
YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED ANY-THING?
WE FORGOT TO WATCH LENO!
WE DID!
End

AFTERWORD

THANKS FOR READING. I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN AT THE END OF THE NEXT VOLUME.
- WASA SAGIRI, 2010

: SPECIAL THANKS :
MIYA / YAMINOTSUKASA / MAO RYUKI / MIDORI / SAE
DOLL WORKER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT / FUNCZION SOUNDS
WITH MARICA / TEAM ONOZUKA / 01BBZ
MY EDITOR, MY FAMILY, AND EVERYONE ELSE

12時の権力者

1

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